

REMARKS

It is respectfully submitted that no new issues requiring further detailed consideration or search have been presented by the proposed amendments and that entry of the claim amendments is appropriate under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Entry of the amendment at least for purposes of appeal is respectfully requested.

1. Claim Objections

The informalities identified in claims 8 and 9 in the Office Action of February 23, 2004 have been corrected according to the suggestions provided in the Action. Removal of the objections to claims 8 and 9 is respectfully requested.

2. New Claims

The subject matter of claims 3, 5, 14 and 16-18 was identified as being allowable in the Action. New claim 19 recites the subject matter of claims 1 and 2 combined with the allowable subject matter of claim 3. New claim 20 recites the subject matter of claims 1 and 4 combined with the allowable subject matter of claim 5. New claim 21 recites the subject matter of claim 13 combined with the allowable subject matter of claim 14. New claims 22-24 recite the subject matter of claim 13 combined with the allowable subject matter of claims 16-18, respectively.

Claims 3, 5, 14 and 16-18 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In view of the acknowledgment of allowable subject matter of claims 3, 5, 14 and 16-18, Applicants submit that new claims 19-24 are in condition for allowance, and no additional searching is necessitated or new issues are raised.

Application No.: 10/030,163
Examiner: Daniel ST.CYR
Art Unit: 2876

3. Conclusion

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicants' Attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown below.

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1176
Phone: (703) 683-0500

Date: July 19, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin J. Cassell", written in a cursive style.

JUSTIN J. CASSELL
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 46,205